

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 9 stands further rejected under 35 USC 101 as a “mixed class claim.” Applicants’ amendments to the claims have mooted these rejections for at least the reasons stated below.

According to the Examiner’s recommendation, applicants have removed the phrase “or the like” from claims 1-3, thus removing any indefiniteness from the claims. Applicants have also amended claims 1 and 4 to more clearly describe the “advancement position” as recommended by the Examiner.

Applicants have amended claim 5 by defining the retreat position of the stopper as “above the accumulating stacker and the bank notes accumulated on the accumulating stacker, as well as outside the tip end regulating wall which forms the accumulating space” rather than “close to the tip end regulating wall outside the accumulating space.” This amendment moots the Examiner’s rejection based on the use of the term “close to.” Similarly, the term “greatly retreated from” has been removed from claim 6.

Applicants have also amended claim 9 to more clearly recite a depositing and dispensing machine comprising an openable door such that claim 9 is clearly directed towards a machine, thereby mooting the Examiner’s rejection under 35 USC 101.

Claims 1-9 are allowable. Therefore, applicants solicit an early action allowing the claims.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. **03-1952** referencing Docket No. **524642001700**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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